

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SY-10 USSS-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 RSR-01 /108 W

----- 081331

P 140930Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9494

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SEOUL 5406

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS, JA

SUBJ: ACCOUNT OF KIM TAE CHUNG'S KIDNAPPING

REF: SEOUL 5365

1. DURING INTERVIEW WITH NEWS MEDIA NIGHT OF AUGUST 13 KIM DESCRIBED IN DETAIL THE EVENTS OF HIS ABDUCTION. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION HIS ACCOUNT AS PRINTED IN THE CHOSUN ILBO WITH ADDITIONAL DETAILS PROVIDED BY AFTERNOON TONGA-ILBO. KIM TAE CHUNG'S FIRST PERSON ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENT

2. AT APPROXIMATELY 11A.M. ON THE 8TH I VISITED DEMOCRATIC UNIFICATION PARTY (DUP) HEAD YANG IL-TONG AT ROOM 2211 OF THE GRAND PALACE HOTEL IN TOKYO TO HAVE LUNCH WITH HIM. IT APPEARS THERE IS SOME MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT MR. YANG AMONG THE KOREAN PEOPLE, BUT IT (THE KIDNAPPING) IS NOT HIS FAULT. WHILE HAVING LUNCHEON WE WERE JOINED BY ASSEMBLYMAN KIM KYONG-IN. I HAD A BODY GUARD WITH ME, BUT SINCE THERE WAS NO PLACE FOR HIM TO STAY ON THE 22ND FLOOR, I SENT HIM DOWN TO THE FIRST FLOOR LOBBY.

3. IT WAS ABOUT 12:40 OR 12:50 P.M. WHEN WE FINISHED LUNCH AND I CAME OUT OF THE ROOM TO THE CORRIDOR TO GET IN THE ELEVATOR.

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I HAD A 2P.M. APPOINTMENT WITH MR. TOSHIO KIMURA WHO USED TO

BE THE CHIEF CABINET MINISTER OF THE SATO CABINET. WHEN COMING OUT OF THE ROOM, MR. YANG TOLD ASSEMBLYMAN KIM TO ESCORT ME TO THE DOWNSTAIRS LOBBY. OUT IN THE CORRIDOR, SIX OR SEVEN STURDY-LOOKING YOUNG MEN EMERGED FROM NOWHERE AND BLOCKED MY WAY. ASSEMBLYMAN KIM SHOUTED AT THEM AND SO DID I. SUDDENLY, THEY HUSTLED ME INTO THE ROOM ADJACENT TO MR. YANG'S ROOM AND STUFFED SOMETHING INTO MY MOUTH. IT WAS ANESTHETIC. STRANGELY, HOWEVER, THE ANESTHETIC WAS NOT VERY STRONG. I FELT SOME RED FLAMES SHOOT THROUGH MY HEAD AND PASSED OUT, BUT WHEN THEY STARTED TO DRAG ME OUT OF THE ROOM I REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS THOUGH I PRETENDED I WAS UNCONSCIOUS. THEY DRAGGED ME INTO THE ELEVATOR. ON THE WAY DOWN, TWO JAPANESE, A MAN AND A WOMAN, GOT INTO THE SAME ELEVATOR SO I SCREAMED "HELP*" AND IMMEDIATELY I WAS KNOCKED OUT BY THE THREE OR FOUR MEN WHO WERE ABDUCTING ME THEN. BEFORE PASSING OUT I SAW THE TWO JAPANESE GETTING OFF THE ELEVATOR AT THE 7TH FLOOR.

4. THE ABDUCTORS TOOK ME DOWN TO THE BASEMENT GARAGE AND PUT ME INTO A CAR. IN THE CAR THEY HAD ME KNEEL DOWN WITH MY FACE ON THEIR LAPS AND MY MOUTH STUFFED. THE CAR DROVE FOR FIVE TO SIX HOURS, THESE WERE EXTREMELY PAINFUL HOURS. FINDING THAT THE ANESTHETIC WAS NOT VERY EFFECTIVE, THEY KICKED ME IN THE STOMACH. (AT THIS TIME, MR. KIM SHOWED A BLACK AND BLUE BRUISE ON HIS LEFT LEG.)

5. I HEARD CHILDREN TALKING OUTSIDE SAYING "THIS WAY TO KYOTO AND THAT WAY TO OTSU". I SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO SOMEWHERE NEAR OSAKA AND IT SEEMED THAT THE JAPANESE TRAFFIC POLICE WERE CHECKING CARS, FOR ONE OF THE ABDUCTORS TOLD THE DRIVER TO TAKE THAT OTHER ROAD. THE CAR CHANGED DIRECTION. IT SEEMS THAT THE ROAD CHECK BY JAPANESE POLICE WAS RATHER LOOSE. HAD THE JAPANESE POLICE CONDUCTED A THOROUGH ROAD CHECK THEY COULD HAVE CAUGHT US THERE.

6. THE CAR STOPPED AND I WAS TAKEN TO THE GARAGE AND THEN UPSTAIRS BY AN ELEVATOR. THERE, THEY LAY ME DOWN AND BOUND ME HAND AND FOOT AND BANDAGED MY FACE WITH MASKING TAPE. ALL EXCEPT MY NOSE WAS COMPLETELY BANDAGED INCLUDING BOTH EARS. I WAS THEN TAKEN TO A TATAMI ROOM. I THOUGHT THAT NOW I WOULD BE WATER-TORTURED, BUT THEY PUT ME IN A CAR AGAIN AND DROVE

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FOR MORE THAN ONE HOUR TO THE SEASIDE. I THOUGHT NOW I WOULD BE THROWN INTO THE WATER, BUT THEY PUT ME ABOARD A MOTORBOAT. AS SOON AS I WAS ON THE MOTORBOAT THEY PULLED A SACK OVER MY BODY. THE MOTORBOAT SAILED FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR AND THEN I WAS TRANSFERRED TO A LARGER SHIP. ON THIS SHIP THEY LAID ME DOWN AND UNTIED ME THEN AND RE-TIED ME; THIS TIME MY ENTIRE BODY AND MORE TIGHTLY AND FIRMLY. THIS MUST HAVE BEEN AROUND ONE A.M. OF THE 9TH, FOR I HAD OVERHEARD A SHORT TIME EARLIER

THEIR CONVERSATION IN WHICH ONE OF THE MEN SAID IT WAS 12:50. THEY WERE SO WELL TRAINED THAT THEY NEVER BETRAYED ANY SIGN AS TO WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO DO WITH ME NEXT. THE MAN WHO SERVED MEALS TO ME WAS GENTLE AND KIND BUT HE TOO NEVER SAID ANY THING ABOUT WHAT DAY IT WAS OR WHERE WE WERE. THEY NOW TOOK ME INSIDE THE SHIP. THERE, THEY UNTIED ME AND AGAIN RE-TIED ME EVEN MORE TIGHTLY. THEY TIED BOTH MY HANDS TOGETHER IN FRONT OF ME AND FIXED TO THEM AN OBJECT WHICH WEIGHED ABOUT 50 KILOGRAMS. THE SAME KIND OF OBJECT WAS ALSO FIXED TO MY LEGS WHICH WERE ALSO TIED UP TOGETHER. THEN THEY GAGGED ME AND KEPT ME THERE LYING DOWN. (MORE)
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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

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P 140930Z AUG 73
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9495
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

UNCLAS FINAL SECTION OF 2 SEOUL 5406/2
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, KS, JA
SUBJ: ACCOUNT OF KIM TAE CHUNG'S KIDNAPPING

7. I HEARD THEM TALKING AMONG THEMSELVES: "THAT WAY IT

(THE WEIGHT?) WON'T STAY", "WE SHOULD TIE HIM WITH A COTTON BEDDING SO THAT HE MAY NEVER FLOAT", "FUKA (SHARK IN JAPANESE)", ETC. THEIR CONVERSATION WAS ALL IN KOREAN USING THE DIALECTS OF KYONGSANG, CHUNGCHONG, CHOLLA AND KYONGGI PROVINCES. THEIR KOREAN WAS SO FLUENT AND PERFECT THAT THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY KOREAN AND NOT KOREAN RESIDENTS IN JAPAN. I THOUGHT THIS INDEED WAS THE VERY END OF ME AND I PRAYED GOD TO SAVE ME, FOR THERE WILL NOT BE ANYONE WHO CAN REPLACE ME FOR AWHILE.

(MR. KIM STOPPED TALKING HERE FOR ABOUT TWO MINUTES AS HE BURST INTO CRYING.) IT WAS A SHIP OF CONSIDERABLE SIZE AND THERE WAS NO ROLLING. I THOUGHT THE SHIP WAS OF NO LESS THAN 1,000 HORSEPOWER. THE SHIP KEPT SAILING FOR MORE THAN TEN HOURS. I HEARD SOMEONE SAYING "SHIKOKU, TOKUYAMA". WE CONTINUED SAILING AND CAME TO A COASTAL SEA OF KOREA ON THE MORNING OF THE 11TH. THERE I WAS TRANSFERRED TO A MOTORBOAT BEFORE COMING ASHORE.

8. BEFORE COMING ASHORE, A DOCTOR CAME TO ME ON THE SHIP TO TREAT ME. HE CHECKED MY BLOOD PRESSURE AND SAID IT WAS TOO LOW. HE GAVE ME TWO INJECTIONS TO BOOST MY BLOOD PRESSURE. APP-
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ROXIMATELY 40 YEARS OF AGE, THE DOCTOR HAD A ROUND FLAT FACE AND A COMMANDING PRESENCE AND EASILY RECOGNIZED ME.

9. AFTER GOING ASHORE, WE CHANGED CARS TWO TIMES. THE SECOND CAR SEEMED TO BE AN AMBULANCE BUT I DID NOT SMELL MEDICINE. A TWO TO THREE HOUR DRIVE IN THE CAR BROUGHT US TO A HOUSE. "THIS HOUSE IS NOT VERY COMFORTABLE BUT WE HAVE TO STAY HERE FOR A FEW DAYS", SOMEONE TOLD ME. I FELT WITH MY HAND THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE AND I KNEW IT WAS A KOREAN HOUSE. I STILL HAD MY HANDS AND LEGS TIED UP, MY EYES BLINDFOLDED AND MY MOUTH STUFFED. THEY MADE ME SWALLOW TWO SLEEPING PILLS. THE NEXT THING I KNEW WAS THAT I WAS IN A TWO-STORY WESTERN STYLE HOUSE AND IT WAS THE MORNING OF THE 12TH. THEY UNTIED MY HANDS BUT KEPT ME BLINDFOLDED. AT 8P.M. ON THE 13TH, THEY TOLD ME THAT THEY WERE GOING TO RELEASE ME AND ASKED ME IF I WOULD KEEP A PROMISE. THEY SAID THAT WHEN THEY LET ME GO IN THE VICINITY OF MY HOME I SHOULD STAND STILL FOR ABOUT THREE MINUTES BEFORE TAKING OFF THE BLINDFOLD AND PROCEEDING TO MY HOME, AND THEY ASKED ME TO PROMISE TO DO SO. SO I PROMISED TO DO SO SAYING THAT I WAS A MAN AND I KEEP MY WORD. THEY TOLD ME THAT THEY WOULD RELEASE ME AS THEY WERE INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY THEIR SUPERIOR. THEY PUT ME IN A CAR, ONE MAN ON EACH SIDE OF ME AND A THIRD MAN ON THE WHEEL. WHILE DRIVING IN THE CAR, THEY UNTIED ME EXCEPT MY BLINDFOLD. DRIVING FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS, I HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH THEM AND IT SEEMED THEY HAD HAD A MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT ME, AND MY TALKING WITH THEM IMPROVED THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF ME.

10. AFTER I CAME ASHORE FROM THE SEA, THEY TOLD ME THAT THEY WERE A TASK FORCE OF THE SAVE-THE-NATION LEAGUE, AND WHEN I ASKED WHAT KIND OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT IT WAS THEY SAID THEY COULD NOT TELL ME ANYTHING FURTHER. THEY TOLD ME LATER THAT THE "TASK FORCE OF THE SAVE-THE-NATION LEAGUE IS AN ANTI-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION DESIGNED TO PROTECT FREE DEMOCRACY". THEY SAID THAT THEY CANNOT TOLERATE ANYONE WHOSE ACTIVITIES OVERSEAS DO NOT BENEFIT HIS COUNTRY AND THEY

BLAMED ME FOR ACTING AS I DID ABROAD INSTEAD OF IN KOREA.

11. THEY LET ME OFF NEAR THE TONGGYO-DONG OFF CE, SAYING
THAT I SHOULD TURN AROUND AND STAY STILL FORTHREE MINUTES
PRETENDING TO URINATE THERE BEFORE TAKING OFF MY BLINDFOLD AND
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WALKING TO MY HOME. SO I ACTUALLY URINATED THERE AND WALKED
TO MY HOME, A50 TO 60 METER DISTANCE.
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